Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [94] and [95] with the following amended paragraphs:

[94] Fig. 14 is a schematic drawing of the architecture of a different information network 202 using information relaying apparatuses 122, 123 according to the third embodiment of the present invention. The different information network 202 can include, for example: information relaying apparatuses 120, 121 such as multi-layer switches (each connected respectively to LAN lines 9 and 10) implementing an existing circuit multiplexing method; and an information relaying apparatus 122 and an information relaying apparatus 123 such as a layer-two switch according to the second embodiment. The information relaying apparatus 122 and the information relaying apparatus 123 are disposed between two terminals (a terminal 124 and a terminal 125), e.g., servers. These elements are connected by LAN lines.

[95] The information relaying apparatus 122 includes four physical ports 130 - 133 (with physical port numbers "1" - "4" respectively), and these are connected to a LAN line 1, a LAN line 3, a LAN line 5, and a LAN line 7. Data received in physical port 132 or physical port 133 can be transmitted from physical port 130 or physical port 131, depending on the routing information contained in the data. Conversely, data received in physical port 130 or physical port 131 can be transmitted from physical port 132 or physical port 133, depending on the routing information contained in the data. Similarly, the information relaying apparatus 123 includes four physical ports and is connected to four LAN lines, namely, a LAN line 2, a LAN line 4, a LAN line 6, and a LAN line 8.

Please replace paragraphs [98] -[100] with the following amended paragraphs:

[98] Fig. 15 shows a schematic drawing of the architecture of the information network 203 using the information relaying apparatuses 122, 123 according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention. In place of the terminals 124, 125 from the information network 202, the information network 203 uses information relaying apparatuses 126, 127 (each connected respectively to LAN lines 11 and 12), which use an existing circuit multiplexing method. The information network 203 provides similar advantages to those of the third embodiment described above.

[99] Next, a fifth embodiment, in which the information relaying apparatuses 21, 22 from the second embodiment are used in yet another information network 204, will be described. Fig. 17 shows a schematic drawing of the architecture of the information network 204 using the information relaying apparatuses 122, 123 according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention. This information

network 204 includes the information relaying apparatus 122 and the information relaying apparatus 123 from the second embodiment, which are disposed between two terminals (a terminal 124 and a terminal 125) and the information relaying apparatus 120 and the information relaying apparatus 121, which use an existing circuit multiplexing method. Each of these are connected using two LAN lines, respectively LAN lines 17 and 18..

[100] The information relaying apparatus 122 includes eight physical ports 130 - 137 (with physical port numbers "1" - "8" respectively) and these are connected to a LAN line 1, a LAN line 2, a LAN line 5, a LAN line 6, a LAN line 9, a LAN line 10, a LAN line 13, and a LAN line 14, respectively. Here, ports 130 and 131 constitute a logical port, ports 132 and 133 constitute a logical port, ports 134 and 135 constitute a logical port, and ports 136 and 137 constitute a logical port. Data received in a first logical port (e.g. the logical port comprised of physical ports 134 and 135) or a second logical port (e.g. the logical port comprised of physical ports 136 and 137) can be transmitted from a third logical port (e.g. the logical port comprising physical ports 130 and 131) or a fourth logical port (e.g. the logical port comprising physical ports 132 and 133), depending on the routing information contained in the data. Similarly, the information relaying apparatus 123 also includes eight physical ports and is connected to eight LAN lines, namely, a LAN line 3, a LAN line 4, a LAN line 7, a LAN line 8, a LAN line 15, a LAN line 16, a LAN line 11, and a LAN line 12.